

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-02

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-15 OMB-01

IO-10 SAM-01 SAB-01 /077 W

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R 250929Z MAR 75

FM AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3047

INFO /AMEMBASSY AMMAN 498

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMCONSUL JERUSALEM

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

UNCLAS DAMASCUS 1114

BEIRUT PASS BAGHDAD

EO 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, SY

SUBJECT: DAMASCUS PRESS SUMMARY MARCH 24-25, 1975

1. SUSPENSION KISSINGER MISSION: SYRIAN PRESS MARCH 24
CONTINUED REFRAIN FROM OFFICIAL COMMENT REGARDING SUSPEN-
SION SECRETARY'S MISSION. AL-BAATH PUBLISHED NEWS AGENCY
REPORTS OF MISSION "FAILURE" AS WELL AS PRESIDENT SADAT'S
STATEMENT THAT ARABS HAVE AS ALTERNATIVES TO STEP-BY-
STEP POLICY THE GENEVA CONFERENCE, SECURITY COUNCIL,
OTHER WORLD FORA AND THE EFFORTS OF THE TWO SUPERPOWERS.
MARCH 25 ISSUE AL-BAATH CARRIED FIRST SYRIAN
REACTION TO SUSPENSION OF MISSION. COLUMNIST AMID KHULI
WROTE THAT MISSION WAS BOUND TO FAIL, APART FROM ISRAELI
ROLE CONTRIBUTING TO ITS FAILURE, BECAUSE AMERICAN
POLICY IGNORED PALESTINIAN RIGHTS, THE CENTRAL ELEMENT
OF JUST SOLUTION. KHULI CONCLUDES THAT ARAB SOLIDARITY
EMERGED INTACT, AND WARNS THAT ISRAEL WILL NOT GO TO
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GENEVA WITHOUT SPECIFIC POLITICAL-MILITARY GAINS TO

GUARANTEE ITS FREEDOM OF MANEUVER, TO EXPAND ITS INTERESTS OR FAILING THAT, EITHER TO PARALYZE THE CONFERENCE OR ABORT ITS DECISIONS.

2. ISRAELI MILITARY MOVEMENTS: BOTH ISSUES AL-BAATH REPORT ISRAELI MILITARY MOVEMENTS AND TROOP REINFORCEMENTS ALONG CEASEFIRE LINES. MRACH 24 ARTICLE CLAIMED THAT "THE ENEMY MOVEMENTS CONFIRM ISRAELI PREPARATIONS TO LAUNCH WIDE ATTACK ON THE ARAB FRONTS, PARTICULARLY GOLAN AND LEBANON."

3. SYRIAN MILITARY EXERCISES: MARCH 25 AL-BAATH REPORTED SYRIAN MILITARY TACTICAL EXERCISE USING LIVE AMMUNITION AND OBSERVED BY COS SHIHABI WHO CRITIQUED EXERCISE BASED ON LESSONS OF OCTOBER WAR.

4. ASAD-ARAFAT MEETING: PRESIDENT ASAD MET PLO DELEGATION COMPOSED OF YASIR ARAFAT, ZUHAYR MUHSIN AND ABD AL-MUHSIN ABU MAYZAR MARCH 23 TO DISCUSS "LATEST DEVELOPMENTS IN ARAB SITUATION."
MURPHY

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PRESS COMMENTS, ARBITRATION, NEGOTIATIONS, PEACE TALKS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 25 MAR 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975DAMASC01114
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750103-0846
From: DAMASCUS
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750319/aaaaaqx.tel
Line Count: 82
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION NEA
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: hartledg
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 18 JUN 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <18 JUN 2003 by maginmm>; APPROVED <01 MAR 2004 by hartledg>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
05 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: DAMASCUS PRESS SUMMARY MARCH 24-25, 1975
TAGS: PFOR, SY, (KISSINGER, HENRY A)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006